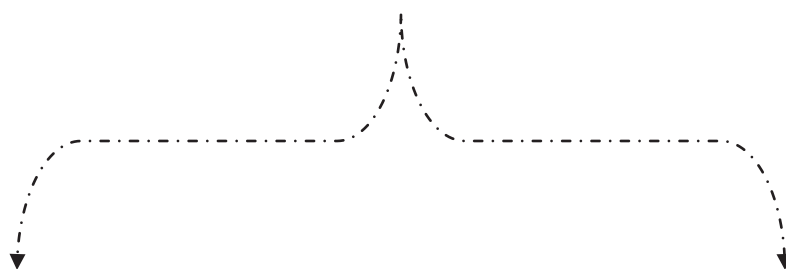


Influenza (flu) is a very contagious viral infection of the nose, throat, bronchial tubes, and lungs. Flu is a respiratory infection and generally does not involve gastrointestinal symptoms, except in very young children. It is estimated that 30 to 60 million U.S. residents get the flu each year. About 100,000 of them are hospitalized and an estimated 36,000 die each year from complications (primarily pneumonia) associated with the infection. Populations that are particularly susceptible to influenza include adults 65 years and older (more than 90% of all influenza deaths), children less than 24 months, people with cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, and chronic metabolic disease such as diabetes.

Flu vaccine is up to 90% effective in preventing illness for healthy populations younger than 65, but effectiveness is contingent upon the strains used in the vaccine being similar to the strains that circulate during flu season. For populations older than 65 years, the vaccine is 30-40% effective in preventing illness, 50-60% in preventing hospitalization, and 80% effective in preventing death. There are two "Utah Influenza Hospitalizations per 100,000" bar graphs below and the 2009-2010 Influenza year was associated with the 2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1).

Comparison of two different Influenza Seasons



Seasonal Influenza and its Impact

Seasonal and H1N1 Influenza and its Impact

